

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

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R 121310 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1831

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

S E C R E T TEHRAN 2368

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, PK

SUBJECT: GOI REQUEST TO GIVE MILITARY AID TO PAKISTAN

REF: 1. STATE 061034; 2. STATE 46652

SUMMARY: GOI HAS REQUESTED USG AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER FOUR C-130 AIRCRAFT TO PAKISTAN. NUMBER OF SIMILAR IRANIAN REQUESTS HAVE BEEN PENDING FOR SOME TIME. ACTION REQUESTED: AMBASSADOR RECOMMENDS THAT QUESTION OF EMBARGO APPLICATION TO IRANIAN MILITARY AID TO PAKISTAN BE REVIEWED AMONG WHITE HOUSE, STATE AND DOD. END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING ON SHAH'S INSTRUCTIONS, GENERAL TOUFANIAN, VICE MINISTER OF WAR, HAS ASKED WHETHER USG WOULD OBJECT TO IRANIAN SALE TO PAKISTAN OF FOUR OF OLDEST C-130 S IN IIAF INVENTORY. PLANES WOULD BE SOLD FOR ABOUT \$3 MILLION EACH AND REPLACED BY IRANIAN PURCHASES OF NEW AIRCRAFT FROM US COSTING ABOUT \$5.3 MILLION EACH. SIMILAR REQUEST WAS MADE BY GOI LAST AUGUST. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR AND CHIEF, ARMISH/ MAAG, TOUFANIAN INDICATED GOI BELIEVES RECENT USG "SLATE CLEANING" DECISIONS MAY ALSO HAVE LIBERALIZED TERMS OF EMBARGO TO PERMIT TRANSFER OF
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IRANIAN ARMS. WE HAVE TOLD TOUFANIAN QUESTION IS BEING REFERRED TO WASHINGTON.

2. ADDRESSEES WILL RECALL THAT DURING PAST YEAR IRAN HAS ASKED AUTHORITY TO SELL OR GIVE PAKISTAN FOLLOWING ITEMS: 80 AP/ ARC-34 RADIO SETS, 1000 F-86 DROP TANKS, 1000 PRC-77 RADIO, COMPONENTS FOR GRC-103 RADIOS AND, MOST RECENTLY, 12 F-86 KITS. WITH SOME VARIATIONS, WE HAVE REPLIED THAT EMBARGO PRECLUDED TRANSFER. IN SOME CASES WE HAVE SAID THAT EMBARGO WAS UNDER REVIEW AND WE WOULD ADVISE GOI IF THERE WERE CHANGE IN POLICY.

3. THROUGHOUT THIS PERIOD SHAH HAS BEEN UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND HOW WE RECONCILE OUR STRONG SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN WITH REFUSAL TO PERMIT TRANSFER TO IT OF RELATIVELY INSIGNIFICANT, NON- LETHAL MILITARY HARDWARE AT IRAN' S EXPENSE. SHAH DOES NOT SEE IRAN' S AID TO PAKISTAN AS INTENDED TO PREPARE IT FOR HOSTILITIES WITH INDIA, BUT AS MEANS FOR PRESERVING NATIONAL COHESION. AS READERS OF OUR REPORTS OF MEETING WITH SHAH ARE WELL AWARE, HE IS DEEPLY AND INCREASINGLY CONCERNED WITH PRESERVATION OF PAKISTAN. SUSPICIOUS OF SOVIET DESIGNS AGAINST PAK UNITY, LACKING CONFIDENCE IN GOP' S ABILITY TO DEAL WITH ITS ENORMOUS PROBLEM WITHOUT OUTSIDE AID, AND FEARING CONSEQUENCES FOR IRAN OF NEIGHBOR' S DISINTEGRATION, HE IS MOVING TO BOLSTER DEFENSES ON EASTERN FRONTIER. FROM SHAH' S PERSPECTIVE IT MAKES EXCELLENT SENSE ALSO TO ASSIST PAKS IN CONTROLLING INTERNAL FORCES WORKING FOR FRAGMENTATION. IMPROVED MOBILITY AND COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY FOR PAK INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES WOULD BE SUPPLIED BY ITEMS PROPOSED FOR TRANSFER.

4. WE REALIZE THAT RECENT MODIFICATION OF ARMS POLICY FOR PAKISTAN HAS CAUSED SOME PAIN FROM INDIA AND OTHER QUARTERS CRITICAL OF US POLICY IN SUBCONTINENT. HOWEVER, WE THINK THERE IS MERIT IN CONSIDERING WHETHER WE MIGHT INDICATE TO GOI THAT WE WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTERTAIN REQUESTS FOR TRANSFER OF NON- LETHAL EQUIPMENT ON CASE- BY- CASE BASIS. BY AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF NON- LETHAL, LOW- VISIBILITY HARDWARE, WE WOULD BOTH ASSIST PAKISTAN AND FURTHER STRENGTHEN OUR TIES WITH IRAN.

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WE ALSO RECONGNIZE THAT SUCH TRANSFERS WILL HEIGHTEN

INDIAN SUSPICIONS THAT IRAN IS ACTING AS CONDUIT FOR US
ARMS TO PAKISTAN. THIS IS RISK THAT HAS TO BE
TAKEN AND IF SUCH TRANSFERS ARE APPROVED WE RECOMMEND
WE MAKE CLEAR TO GOI THAT IT ASSUMES A CERTAIN
RESPONSIBILITY TO DEAL WITH INDIAN COMPLAINTS.

5. AMBASSADOR REQUESTS THAT REVIEW OF THIS PROPOSITION
BE UNDERTAKEN AMONG WHITE HOUSE, STATE AND DOD AND THAT
WE BE ADVISED OF DECISION. AMBASSADOR RECOMMENDS
APPROVAL.
HELMS

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*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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TAGS: MASS, IR, PK
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